

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00607 162144Z
ACTION EUR-12

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USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-08 OES-06 H-02 /056 W
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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2476
INFO ALL AMCONSULS CANADA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0607

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA, PFOR, CA
SUBJECT: TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON - PRESS ROUND-UP NO. 1

1. CANADIAN PRESS IS BEGINNING TO FOCUS ON TRUDEAU VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THIS MESSAGE CONSTITUTES FIRST IN SERIES OF DAILY HIGHLIGHTS REPORTS.
2. GLOBE AND MAIL FEBRUARY 16 CONTAINED TWO ARTICLES ON SUBJECT.
3. FIRST WAS STRAIGHT PRESS ITEM ENTITLED: "TRUDEAU, CARTER TO ASSESS EACH OTHER -- NO IRRITANTS LIST CLOUDS PM'S U.S. VISIT", BASED ON BACKGROUNDER GIVEN BY IVAN HEAD, TRUDEAU'S ADVISER ON FOREIGN POLICY, FOR PRESS PARTY WHICH WILL ACCOMPANY TRUDEAU. ARTICLE QUOTED HEAD AS MAKING SEVERAL POINTS: (A) PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO GIVE TWO LEADERS OPPORTUNITY "TO ASSESS ONE ANOTHER IN PERSONAL TERMS"; (B) EXPECTATION THAT GOODWILL WILL PREVAIL OVER HARD BARGAINING; (C) SEVERAL PAST IRRITANTS SUCH AS TIME MAGAZINE ISSUE ARE MATTER OF HISTORY. "MUCH HERALDED IMPROVEMENT IN CANADIAN-US RELATIONS HAD ALREADY BEGUN BECAUSE NEITHER PARTY IS APPROACHING THE MEETING WITH LIST OF IRRITANTS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED". (D) "DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ISSUES IS LIKELY TO BE MUTED BUT WILL TOUCH ON COMMON

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS SUCH AS GARRISON DIVERSION PROJECT . . . AND ON ENERGY-RELATED ISSUES SUCH AS POSSIBLE ROUTES FOR PIPELINE". (E) "MR. TRUDEAU'S VIEWS ON NATIONAL UNITY AND QUEBEC SITUATION WILL RECEIVE MAJOR EMPHASIS BOTH IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER AND IN HIS ADDRESS TO CONGRESS". (F) OTHER TOPICS MIGHT BE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION,

NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, AND US RELATIONS WITH AFRICA.

4. IN SECOND ARTICLE, GLOBE AND MAIL COLUMNIST GEOFFREY STEVENS MADE POINT THAT "CANADA IS NOT BORING ANY LONGER. NOT TO AMERICANS. NOT EVEN TO CANADIANS". STEVENS FOCUSES ON SEPARATIST ISSUE AND STRESSES THAT "MR. TRUDEAU . . . IS GOING TO HAVE TO ADDRESS HIMSELF SOLIDLY AND CONVINCGLY TO THE SUBJECT OF CANADA . . . IN SEEKING TO ALLAY DOUBTS ABOUT CANADA'S FUTURE, MR. TRUDEAU CAN AT LEAST DRAW ON A RESERVOIR OF GOODWILL". ENDERS

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